

# Surplus Success...

## U.V.S.C. Fire & Rescue Academy Has All The Right Stuff For Utah Safety Training.

If creativity and hard work are the "right stuff" for training Utah's fire and rescue personnel, then Utah Valley State College (UVSC) has it in Director Steve Lutz and Assistant Director for Support Services Dan Crowbridge. This team has been fixing, building and inventing everything from classrooms to hazardous waste spills for more than ten years with less than "enough money", and a little help from the Surplus Property team.

Lutz came to the UVSC Utah Fire and Rescue Academy in 1988, after serving several years as a volunteer Fire Fighter in Brian Head Utah. Along his experience as a Fire Fighter, he brought the knowledge of the Surplus Property Program and how to use it to fulfill the needs of the Academy while staying within their limited budget.

"Surplus has been a real benefit to us here," he said. "The kinds of things that we have bought, since I've been here, has been everything from office furniture to vehicles to all sorts of raw materials that we use to build training props. A lot of times it's a matter of 'ya know I think we can use that for a live fire prop' and kind'a buy it on speculation that you will be able to use it, and by in large we really have."

Along with training the student enrolled at UVSC, the Academy also travels throughout the state training and certifying volunteer fire fighters. The Academy certifies fire fighters at 14 different levels from entry level to officers and investigators. Emer-



Steve Lutz shows off a Hazardous Waste Training device made w/ Surplus Property.

gency Medical Technicians and Hazardous Waste Clean up is also taught through the Academy.

"We've got a whole series of semi-trailers and props that we haul all around, it's kind'a, the circus comes to town," Lutz said.

The Academy trainers load the semi-trucks with live fire props, self-contained breathing apparatus and extra fire safety gear, much of which was obtained through the State and Federal Surplus Programs. The training kits are packed on metal pallets, bought through the Surplus Program, and placed in the trailers for shipping to the class site.

"The problem is that we are so specialized that a lot of times it's difficult to get a contractor to even be interested in what we're doing," he said. "We're sort of on the cutting edge of fire fighting, we're inventing things as we go along."

One particularly innovative training prop is used for

hazardous waste clean-up training. By utilizing a surplus tank, boat trailer a pump system, the team has created a spill simulator. Prior to the creation of the simulator, training was done by "imagination".

The team is currently working on a fire simulator that is being built from a surplus multi-head propane pump. They have taken liquor store shelving and turned it into storage compartments for the students to keep their personal items during class. They have even been known to light office furniture on fire after it has outlived its usefulness.

"You could almost say we take advantage of the system," Crowbridge said. "We go up [to Surplus Property] and see possibilities. Where people look at something and see a piece of junk, we look and see something that could help us deliver training or improve the way we do the training. We look at things not as what it is, but what it can be."

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